

A dear friend, a pioneer, and a tireless advocate for the people of Queens, José was an ardent advocate for his constituents and New York City in his elected service in the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly.

José Rafael Peralta was born in Washington Heights and raised in Queens by Dominican-born parents; making him the first Dominican-American to be elected to New York State Senate. He was a proud graduate of Queens College, City University of New York. Not only a dedicated student, he was attuned to local politics and driven to make his community a better place. This was when I first met José as a volunteer on my campaign for State Assembly. José was effervescent and exceedingly intelligent. And thoughtful. And my friend.

Senator Peralta fought relentlessly for the rights and equity for all immigrants. He was a strong supporter of the DREAM Act for New York State. On behalf of his constituents in New York City and the greater immigrant diaspora in New York State, he was unyielding in his desire to see the New York State Dream Act passed and signed into law. He believed with every fiber of his being that we have an obligation to ensure that every opportunity for equity and advancement should be available to all persons. I have called on New York State Senate leadership and New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to rename the legislation after José Rafael Peralta to honor his work in advocacy of the immigrant community of New York.

José Rafael Peralta was vibrant, an extraordinary public servant, a devoted husband, and a loving father. He fought for the marginalized, for working families, for women, for everyone who needed a voice.

May God bless his family. It was an honor to call him a friend.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at the Presidential signing of H.R. 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 also known as the Farm Bill, I was unable to be present for several votes taken on December 20, 2018 on bills considered under suspension of the Rules.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA on Roll Call No. 448; YEA on Roll Call No. 449; YEA on Roll Call No. 450; YEA on Roll Call No. 451; YEA on Roll Call No. 452; YEA on Roll Call No. 453; YEA on Roll Call No. 454; YEA on Roll Call No. 455; YEA on Roll Call No. 456; YEA on Roll Call No. 457; YEA on Roll Call No. 458; YEA on Roll Call No. 459; YEA on Roll Call No. 460; YEA on Roll Call No. 461; YEA on Roll Call No. 462; YEA on Roll Call No. 463; YEA on Roll Call No. 464; YEA on Roll Call No. 465; and YEA on Roll Call No. 466.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDI SIMPSON

#### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Washington State Republican Congressional Delegation, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Fredi Simpson, and recognize her tremendous service and many contributions to Washington State and our nation.

As a longtime leader in Washington State politics, Fredi was well known for her fierce personality and tenacious drive. Fredi served as the Republican National Committeewoman for Washington State, Chairwoman for the Chelan County Republican Central Committee and Chairwoman of the Chelan-Douglas Republican Women's group, among other posts. In politics, Fredi was a force to be reckoned with, crisscrossing the state helping candidates on every level. Fredi's leadership in the state will be missed.

Above all, however, we will miss her friendship. Fredi was beloved by all who knew her, and she spent her life lifting up her community and serving others. There was no more loyal of a friend than Fredi. The hole she leaves behind in our hearts and in our Central Washington community will never be filled. We are forever grateful for the many laughs shared and will always cherish the fond memories of our time together as partners on the campaign trail, and most importantly as friends in life.

As I reflect on the many remarkable contributions that span Fredi's lifetime, I hold close in my heart the family she leaves behind. While Fredi loved her nation and was devoted to its service, there was no love greater than that which she gave to her family. To her husband, Bruce, a small business owner from Wenatchee, WA, and her son, Kane, I say thank you. From the bottom of my heart, I thank them for sharing Fredi with us—we are all better people and our nation is stronger because of her contributions.

#### RECOGNIZING TEMPLE MOSES AND RABBI D. GALIMIDI-HADAR

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the historic Temple Moses in Miami Beach and its Executive Director, Rabbi D. Galimidi-Hadar.

Temple Moses is a staple and beacon of our beloved South Florida. It serves as a hub for Turkish-Spanish or Sephardic Jews across the world, a community of which I am proud to be a part through my grandparents who emigrated to Cuba from Turkey. Originating in Spain over 500 years ago, Sephardic Jews continue to celebrate that heritage through food, song, and prayer. From Spain to Turkey, beginning a hundred years ago, until the present time, the Sephardic Jewish community has become a leader in scholarship, events, and celebration of the Judeo-Spanish life. They are a shining example of diversity and modernity as well as culture and faith.

At Temple Moses Rabbi D. Galimidi-Hadar leads the largest Judeo-Spanish community in the world. He founded the 'Next Sephardic Generation', a grassroots organization aimed at revitalizing and rebuilding the Judeo-Spanish community, and was named one of America's 'Most Inspiring Rabbis' by Forward magazine. He's also been recognized in the Sun Sentinel newspaper and honored for his work by both the Miami Beach Commission and Mayor as well as by the Florida Senate. Rabbi D. Galimidi-Hadar was the only member of the clergy to address the Florida Senate after the Parkland shooting and has been an advocate for those in need throughout Florida. He has written the commentary for the Sephardic Siddur series and is currently working on a book about the Sephardic experience in America.

Mr. Speaker, Temple Moses and Rabbi D. Galimidi-Hadar have been a shining light in South Florida and I am grateful to have them representing us worldwide.

#### GODSPEED AND FAREWELL

#### HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2018*

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention to do a farewell address on the House floor on Thursday. In fact, I had reserved half an hour of floor time and had intended to not only offer a farewell but to talk one last time about the dangers headed to our economy and country, based on the build-up of our national debt and the economic bubble this has brought about. As it turned out, the day got turned upside down, and so as a consequence, I include in the RECORD the following.

I would have simply risen to say thank you; as it stands, I write to say thank you.

As a boy, our family would watch the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" each Christmas. It was one of our traditions, and it's a telling tale of life's real blessings and the importance of remembering them. It's in that spirit that I recognize how blessed I have been to have been an active participant in federal and state political debates over the last quarter of a century.

It was Teddy Roosevelt who spoke much of the man in the arena, but what's often times forgotten about those who apply his speech to politics is the people who put folks in the arena. And that's where my thanks begin. I ran for Congress for the first time back in 1994 not really having much of a clue on the political process but certainly being concerned, revolted by, and impassioned on the dangers of our federal debt—and what it could do to our economy and our republic. I held flip charts in front of Rotary Club gatherings and walked through rather mind-numbing sets of numbers in explaining the dangers of our debt. I talked about the fall of the Byzantine Empire. I talked about the debt-load in Spain in the sixteen hundreds. I talked about a lot of rather narrow details, and I look back now at those talks and cringe. Those who sat in the back row must have thought to themselves, "I have no idea what he is talking about, but he sure is passionate about it—and based on that I'll give him the benefit of my vote."

This was the beginning of 25 years of kindness, generosity, understanding, and more that me, Jenny, and the boys were the recipients of over the years. I don't know how